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1. [*Seven terms that took off in 2019; Chattering Classes*](#)

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Seven terms that took off in 2019; Chattering Classes

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Body

1 Cancelled Celebrities from Kanye West to Bill Gates have been "cancelled" in 2019 as the internet expressed outrage at their actions or political views and vowed to withdraw support for the stars. The move, however, rarely results in real-world ramifications for superstars.

2 Climate emergency Oxford Dictionaries, a collection of online dictionaries produced by a publishing house of Oxford University, declared climate emergency its word of the year after seeing its usage soar more than 10,796 per cent. Researchers said this demonstrated a shift in the way people were talking about the climate.

3 They (singular) U.S. dictionary Merriam-Webster picked the singular use of "they" to describe someone who does not identify as male or female as its word of the year. It said searches for that use of the word had increased by more than 300 per cent this year.

4 Self-partnered British actress Emma Watson made headlines in November when she told Vogue magazine she was happy to be single as she neared her 30th birthday, adding: "I call it being self-partnered."

The term went viral, both praised and ridiculed, even though the actress later said it was just "a throwaway comment."

5 Flygskam or flight shame Taking off in Sweden, home of teen climate activist Greta Thunberg, the term "Flygskam," translated as "flight shame," was coined in reaction to shifting attitudes toward air travel and the drive to reduce carbon emissions.

Thunberg refuses to fly to events and other travellers are looking for more climate-friendly travel options.

6 Eco-anxiety Oxford Dictionaries recorded a 4,290-per-cent increase in the term "eco-anxiety" in 2019, particularly among young people.

The American Psychological Association defined eco-anxiety as "a chronic fear of environmental doom," while mental health studies from Greenland to Australia revealed a surge in people reporting stress or depression about the impact of climate change.

7 Girly swot After revelations that British Prime Minister Boris Johnson referred to predecessor prime minister David Cameron as a "girly swot" in a cabinet paper, the term was adopted with pride by women in politics and elsewhere, as "swot" in British slang usage means an intelligent, educated person. !@COPYRIGHT=© 2019 Postmedia Network Inc. All rights reserved.

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